

# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



## ASARCO Smelter Site, Ruston, Washington

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

March 2004

### Asarco Cleanup — Demolition of the Fine Ores Bin to Start in April You are invited to a public meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup>

#### What is happening at the Tacoma Smelter this year?

The Fine Ore Bins Building on the Tacoma smelter site will be taken down this year. Demolition will start at the beginning of April and will take three months. The metals in the building will be recycled. Wood will be disposed of in an off-site landfill.

Also this year, the last 100,000 cubic yards of source-area soils (the most contaminated material on the smelter site), will be excavated and placed in the

On-site Containment Facility (OCF), the landfill on the Tacoma smelter site. About 100 cubic yards have already been deposited in the OCF.

A temporary cover will be placed over the OCF at the end of the construction season. Settlement of waste in the OCF will take place over the winter; then the final cover can be placed.

#### Cleanup in Ruston

From May to October, 100 properties will be cleaned up in the town of Ruston. To date, soil has been excavated from 1,200 Ruston properties. The total number of properties that will require cleanup is currently unknown because not all areas have been sampled. It is estimated that 500 to 1,000 additional properties will need to be addressed.

#### Come to a public meeting

##### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday 3/30/04

4:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Asarco Information Center  
5311 North Commercial  
Ruston, WA

#### Disposal of Soil from the Everett Smelter at the Asarco Tacoma Smelter

An estimated 25,000 cubic yards of highly contaminated soil from the former Everett Smelter are scheduled to be taken to the Tacoma Smelter for disposal in the OCF (Asarco is required to clean up both sites). Disposal at the Tacoma Smelter will save the Asarco Trust Fund over \$3 million [see reverse side] which will further cleanup at sites across the country. This soil will take up about ten percent of the landfill space on the Tacoma site. Soil from Everett will not be placed

into the OCF until all of the Tacoma soil has been deposited. In addition, 40—50,000 cubic yards of soil with the same levels of contamination as those found in Ruston will be brought from the Everett site and placed under the sitewide cap. This will account for about ten percent of the total soil under the cap.

The efficiency of combining the Everett Smelter cleanup with the Asarco Tacoma site makes the Tacoma smelter a national priority to receive trust fund money.



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
1200 Sixth Avenue, ECO-081  
Seattle, Washington 98101-1128

*ASARCO Smelter Site  
Ruston, Washington  
Come to a public meeting  
March 30, 2004*

**Asarco Ruston/North Tacoma received \$6.5 million of  
\$18 million available for cleanup this year**

In June 2003, the Federal government reached an agreement with Asarco to fund an independent environmental trust to be used for seven years to pay for cleanup of 39 polluted sites around the country where Asarco is liable. Initial funding of the trust was \$100 million. The Tacoma Smelter and Ruston cleanups account for over a third of the \$18 million to be spent this year.

**QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?**

**serrano-velez.lilibeth@epa.gov**  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
206-553-1388

**Rochlin.Kevin@epa.gov**  
Project Manager  
206-553-2106

**kpickett@asarco.com**  
Asarco Information Center  
253-756-5436

**EPA: 1-800-424-4372**

**Lrose@healthybay.org**  
Citizens for a Healthy Bay  
253-383-2429



*Alternative formats available upon request.  
Please call Lilibeth to request reasonable  
accommodation by March 23. TTY: 1-800-877-  
8339.*